



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

FEB 7 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dales J. Jones
Chief, Office for Law Enforcement

FROM: *William T. Hogarth*
William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

SUBJECT: Temporary Suspension of Enforcement of the
IR/IU Requirements

After a five-year period of delayed effectiveness, the increased retention/increased utilization (IR/IU) requirements for rock sole and yellowfin sole came into effect on January, 1, 2003 (62 FR 63880). The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has conducted an analysis of the impacts of these requirements and is in the process of developing regulatory alternatives to the IR/IU requirements for these fisheries for issuance by NOAA Fisheries. These regulations are expected to be issued within 90 to 120 days.

As the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries I have determined it is NOAA Fisheries policy, except in egregious, unusual circumstances, to suspend enforcement of the IR/IU requirements in the rock sole and yellowfin sole fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area for 120 days from the date of this memorandum, or until the regulations referred to above are issued or disapproved, whichever occurs first. Please ensure the necessary distribution of this memorandum.

cc: F/AK - Jim Balsiger
F/AKC - Doug DeMaster
GC - Jim Walpole/Jane Chalmers
GCEL - Michelle Kuruc
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

